



PRESS RELEASE

STATEMENT BY THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA IN SUPPORT OF THE WHO IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

New York, 19 April 2020: The following [statement](#) was issued today by the Group of 77 and China at the United Nations headquarters in New York:

“1. The Group of 77 and China is deeply concerned at the rapid spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, one of the most serious public health crises in modern history. The first priority is to save lives. The Group therefore, acknowledges the leading role of the World Health Organization (WHO) led by its Director- General, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, and extends its full support and appreciation for its work in providing information, technical guidance, training and other assistance to developing countries to help them prepare for and efficiently respond to the pandemic.

2. We share the view of the United Nations Secretary-General that unity must prevail, so that the international community can work together in solidarity to stop this virus and its shattering consequences. The international community must unite in its efforts to ensure access to scientific guidance, training, equipment, essential medical supplies, and concrete life-saving services to countries in greatest need and in regions where the full impact is yet to be felt.

3. The G-77 and China calls on all members of the global community to maintain and, where possible increase their support for the WHO, which, by the mandate given to it by Member States, has a critical and central role to play in supporting developing countries to confront a crisis of epic scale that threatens to erase the gains made over the past decades.

4. We reiterate the need to strengthen international solidarity and multilateral cooperation and partnership in the fight against a disease that is our common enemy.”

For more information, please visit the Group of 77 at: www.g77.org

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